

in a general way those which have the serious consideration of up-to-date school departments throughout the United States. Rodin called attention to the fact that in the San Francisco schools about one out of every fifty children in the age period nine to sixteen had an impairment of hearing of sufficient amount, to make desirable the giving of lip-reading instruction.

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This subject has long been the object of study by both the medical and teaching professions. The last California legislature of 1927 passed a measure known as Senate Bill 342, which required "certain reports to be made concerning children with impaired hearing." Since the language of that act specifically applies to members of the medical profession, it would seem proper to quote its first section, which reads: "It shall be the duty of every attending or consulting physician, nurse, parent or guardian having charge of any minor who is totally deaf or whose hearing is impaired, to report at once to the superintendent of schools of the county, or incorporated city, or city and county of which said child is a resident, the name, age and residence of such minor."

There are three other sections. The object of the four sections of the bill is to make it possible for the state, through the persons enumerated in Section 1, to have an early contact with these children who have these hearing handicaps. Thus the proper educational measures may be instituted at the time when they will be of most value to the child, both for its schoolday life and its later adult years so that it may be given a proper chance to become a useful and happy citizen.

The attention of the members of the California Medical Association is called to this recent law, and every physician is urged to give full cooperation in this beneficent and much-needed work.

IN THEIR INITIAL EXPLOITATION, WHY DO NEW CULTS OF HEALING HAVE SO MANY GRADUATES?

From the beginning of history, cults of healing have come and gone. They will continue to come and go, but their advent and their demise could be made much less inimical to the public health if decent and proper educational safeguards were insisted upon by the state.

In our own group of non-sectarian practitioners of the healing art—the so-called regular or old school group—we lay down as a fundamental principle in the practice of the art and science of medicine, that we start out with no academic notions, hypotheses or dogmas, which would lay down beforehand the nature or the treatment of diseases.

Each of us is at liberty and is expected to utilize all facts and measures which the advances of medical or related sciences, from day to day, may bring forth.

This is the only rational approach to an understanding of any science, and because we support that principle we maintain our place as a learned profession not only in all the recognized universi-

ties of our own and other civilized countries, but also among the great masses of lay citizens of these respective lands.

Starting as we thus do with this concept of obligation to keep abreast of all advances which the industry and researches of all our fellows may bring forward, it is easy for us to go one step further in this broad knowledge which we have of the science to which we pay allegiance. We therefore believe and hold that for a proper understanding of the intricate chemical, mechanical and biologic phenomena that are met with in the human body, an adequate amount of education and training to understand and to interpret these phenomena should be required of every citizen who seeks a license from the state, so that he may be permitted to go before the public as a presumably safe and competent practitioner of the healing art.

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It is just herein that our group differs so much from modern-day cults of the healing art, who utilizing modern-day press propaganda and other commercial publicity methods, are able to carry on intensive campaigns for the spreading of their teachings, so that many lay citizens who have only a superficial knowledge of the nature of disease, and of the heavy expense, hard work and years of study that is necessary for its understanding, fall a prey to these later day healing art propagandists.

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It is most significant that practically all of these recently formed healing art cults, during the first years of their existence, secured a very large number of their students by having little or no requirements as to preliminary education, and very diminished quantitative and qualitative standards of professional training.

It is not to be wondered at that such groups found it easy to gain many disciples who aspired to graduate as "doctors" in their groups. For with little more than a reading, writing, and arithmetic requirement, and a comparatively small amount of money for a one or two-year term, in a day or night course curriculum to secure a so-called professional education, these cults were able to reach hundreds and thousands of prospective students under such conditions.

These cultist groups have had their largest growth in the last quarter of a century. It is during this same period that the regular profession has been demanding higher and higher standards of preliminary education and of professional training.

Today in our own and other states, for our own group graduates, a full four-year high school education, two years of collegiate liberal arts work, four years in a medical college and at least one year of hospital internship, all to be taken in accredited high schools, colleges, medical schools, and hospitals measuring up to an accept-

able standard, may be said to be the almost universal standard of our minimum educational requirements.

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As we look back at the Carnegie Institution and Flexner reports, which had so much to do with creating a demand for these higher standards of professional training, it is to be regretted that we did not foresee that in permitting to go out of existence medical schools of many years of honorable existence and long lines of honorable and efficient graduates, we were making it possible for cultist groups to flaunt themselves before the public and in high-sounding language promulgate the advantages of their therapeutical measures; these schools at the same time preparing the way for hosts of persons with little or no proper preliminary education, to acquire a degree of "doctor" in this or what not, and be eligible for legal licensure as practitioners of the healing art, as much so as those who had spent years in preparation and training for the doctorate degree in medicine.

Here in California, as well as in other states, this chase for a professional degree on such a deplorable basis, still goes merrily on.

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Of course it is the public that pays for this inattention to adequate standards and, unfortunately, it is often that portion of our citizenship with lesser education and discrimination, whose members fall into the nets of such poorly trained practitioners.

Our group of the healing art—the non-sectarian or so-called regular or old school practitioners—does not object to a citizen reserving for himself the right to avail himself of any method or methods of healing which to such a citizen seem desirable.

Our group of practitioners does contend, however, that the state is blameworthy if it sanctions the licensing of any practitioner of the healing art, be he of our own or any other group, who has not had that proper preliminary education and professional training, that is presumably a necessary prerequisite to make himself a safe individual to hold himself before the public as a practitioner of the healing art; and very often in that capacity to hold in his hands the health, prosperity, happiness, and even the lives of the lay fellows who come to him when they are suffering from disease or injury.

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It is hardly conceivable in this day and generation that in a state such as California that a cross-section of the opinion of the citizenship of the state would give a majority opinion in favor of a preliminary education less than a full four-year high school course for every individual aspiring

to secure a license as a doctor in any phase or branch of the healing art.

The cultist schools and exponents profess to have that and even higher standards of preliminary education. They should not therefore oppose this minimum high school standard in case it were brought forward.

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In some states the recent basic science laws aim to utilize this sensible high school requirement as the minimum standard of preliminary education. These basic science laws were discussed in this column in the October issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Would it not be wise for the members of the California Medical Association to give the subject careful consideration? Can a more practical method of elevating the standards of all practitioners of the healing art be brought forward? It is our belief that, as the years go by, an increasing number of states in the Union will adopt this basic standard of preliminary education, and that California should take up the consideration of some such measure at an early day.

MEDICAL ALTRUISM

The president of the Santa Barbara branch of the American Association for Medical Progress, Mr. George E. Coleman, has issued a pamphlet entitled "Some Medical Discoveries of 1927" that has been distributed among its members and that is worthy of wide publicity. Under the News column of the Miscellany Department of this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE are published excerpts.

The altruism of the medical profession was never more strongly shown than is shown in this pamphlet. Each successful result has been obtained after months of painstaking research has been freely given publicity—simply that upon the foundation so laid further discoveries and advances may be made available for the benefit and betterment of mankind.

What a contrast to the secrecy that surrounds a commercial discovery—to the safeguarding through the patent office of the manufacture and use of any idea that may have a monetary value!

Research men who devote their lives to this department of medicine are deserving of highest honor and of loyal support from their medical confrères and from every layman who can understand and appreciate the disinterestedness of the work and the amazing results that they have obtained. Every reader of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE should turn to the News column and review the medical accomplishments of the year 1927, on page 544.